

I. Project Title and Project Purpose Statement

Project title, summary description of the proposed project, and project location: This project, entitled *Planning and Implementing for Environmental Justice, Climate Resiliency, and Green Infrastructure*, aims to advance community education, dialogue, and planning around stormwater management in the Proctor Creek headwaters of Atlanta, GA, 30318. The flooding hazard is high for much of Proctor Creek due to the topography, prevalence of impervious surfaces, and a strained combined sewer system. However, the English Avenue and Vine City neighborhoods are most vulnerable to flooding because they are immediately downstream from the headwaters, an area that is approximately 70% impervious due to extensive development. Utilizing the EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Model in a series of community meetings, the Community Improvement Association will lead the effort to ensure that the perspectives and needs of community members in the English Avenue and Vine City neighborhoods of Atlanta are integrated into existing plans to manage water contamination and flooding. Importantly, Atlanta University Center (AUC) campuses, which are located in the headwaters and are the source of much of the contaminated runoff into our community, will participate in this process to ensure coordination with campus activities and plans.

Related environmental statutes and the projects' community climate resiliency focus: In accordance with Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act, this project will promote management strategies to reduce and eliminate stormwater contamination and flooding in the Proctor Creek headwaters and provide citizens in this vulnerable area of Atlanta with the tools and knowledge to continue advocating for and implementing these solutions. This proposal's focus on stormwater management will address projections for increased heavy rainfall periods and intensified drought periods associated with climate change in the Southeastern United States, preparing vulnerable areas of Atlanta for both flooding and potential water scarcity.¹

II. Environmental, Public Health and community climate resiliency information about the affected community

The environmental, public health, and climate resiliency issue that the project seeks to address: Under this grant, the Community Improvement Association seeks to address - through community education and community participation in design and planning - the impact of stormwater contamination and flooding on two low-income neighborhoods near the headwaters of Proctor Creek, a tributary of the Chattahoochee River located in Northwestern Atlanta, GA. This environmental and public health issue will likely worsen due to the projected increased periods of heavy rainfall associated with climate change in the Southeastern United States.²

Expected results achieved from the efforts to address the local environmental, public health and climate resiliency issues: Ultimately, the green infrastructure plans will mitigate the current flooding problems and will prepare the community for expected increases in rainfall and flooding associated with climate change. In the short-term, these efforts will increase the knowledge of all community members about the causes of local flooding and the critical role of green infrastructure solutions in resolving them, empower residents to advocate for stormwater solutions, and increase the interaction and collaboration between upstream and downstream community members and enhance their ability

¹ United States Global Change Research Program. (2009). *Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States*. Cambridge University Press. New York, NY.

² National Research Council. (2010). *Advancing the Science of Climate Change*. The National Academies Press. Washington, DC.

to work together. A final product of these efforts will include an updated green infrastructure vision reflecting the community's perspectives.

Characteristics of the affected community and how it is disproportionately impacted: Proctor Creek was formerly a site of recreation and a source of pride for the community. The creek supported the local culture—swimming, baptisms, and fishing were common.³ Today, the same activities are considered unsafe, and the creek is mostly confined in pipes at its headwaters. Characterized as one of the top five environmental justice hotspots in Metro Atlanta, according to the publication *The Patterns of Pollution: A Report on Demographics and Pollution in Metro Atlanta*, the English Avenue and Vine City areas of the Proctor Creek watershed now merits urgent attention.⁴ Recent financial investment in the bordering area has driven development in Downtown Atlanta, where the Georgia World Congress Center, the Georgia Dome, the CNN Center, the Phillips Arena, Centennial Olympic Park, the Georgia Aquarium, and the World of Coke supply the city with tourist revenue. The extensive impervious surfaces in this urbanized area diverts run-off water into low-lying English Avenue and Vine City, making these downstream neighborhoods - and the homes, public parks, and school grounds contained in them - vulnerable to flooding. The storm water run-off contributes a significant amount of pollutants, including oil, grease, pesticides, trash, and potentially leachate from illegally dumped tires. The flooding exacerbates indoor mold growth and facilitates mosquito breeding, leaving residents susceptible to disease-causing particulate matter and pathogens. A health survey conducted this past summer by Emory University and Eco-Action⁵ in the English Avenue and Vine City neighborhoods documented non-bathroom mold in more than 35% of the 150 residences surveyed, as compared to 1.5% of homes included in the American Healthy Homes Survey⁶ and 15.2% of homes included in a survey of low income housing in Boston.⁷ Dust sampling revealed that 83% of the homes surveyed in English Avenue and Vine City had an Environmental Relative Moldiness Index (ERMI) greater than 5, with a median ERMI of 10.88. In comparison, in the American Healthy Homes Survey, the median ERMI value was 0 and only 25% of homes had values greater than 5. These indoor air conditions likely contribute to the 14% of participants who reported currently having asthma, of which 32% lived in a home with mold observed in non-bathroom areas. Again, these numbers exceed a comparative 7.8% of Georgia residents reporting current asthma who participated in the 2010 Georgia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey.⁸

In addition to the flooding, the aging sewer system in the English Avenue and Vine City neighborhoods includes two combined sewer overflows (CSOs), which discharge wastewater and stormwater directly into Proctor Creek. As often as 80 times a year, rainstorms caused the overburdened sewer systems to overflow, causing dangerous water pollution that includes untreated human fecal coliform. A Federal Consent Decree committing the City of Atlanta to end water quality violations resulting from combined sewer overflows (CSOs) was to be completed by July 2014, but a

³ Proctor Creek Stewardship Council. (2014). <http://www.proctorcreek.org>.

⁴ Green Law. (2012). *The Patterns of Pollution: A Report on Demographics and Pollution in Metro Atlanta*. Atlanta, GA.

⁵ Emory University and ECO-Action. (2014). *Emory University Proctor Creek Community Collaborative Health Survey* [Brochure]. Atlanta, GA.

⁶ Vesper, S., McKinstry, C., Cox, D., and Dewalt, G. (2001). Correlation between ERMI values and other moisture and mold assessments of homes in the American Health Homes Survey. *Journal of Urban Health – Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*, (86), 850-860.

⁷ Adamkiewicz, G., Spengler, J.D., Harley, A.E., Stoddard, A., Yang, M., Alvarez-Reeves, M., and Sorenson, G. (2014). Environmental conditions in low-income urban housing: clustering and associations with self-reported health. *American Journal Public Health*, (104), 1650-1656.

⁸ Georgia Department of Public Health. (2010). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Prevalence Data. Available at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/>.

federal court recently extended the deadline to 2027. Through a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), the Georgia Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources is monitoring *E.coli* for compliance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act). Data from spring 2011 found five monitoring sites that consistently exceeded safety levels.⁹

Demographics, geographic location, community history: Approximately 9,000 residents live in English Avenue and Vine City, 41% of which are below the poverty line and nearly half of all the households in the area make less than \$22,366 per year.¹⁰ The crime rate in the area is more than twice the average in the City of Atlanta. The vacant housing rate is more than 20%. Despite the nearby economic development, investment in this community remains low due to the flooding problems and overall deterioration. In the 2010 Census, the racial/ethnic composition was predominantly minority (82.62% Black or African American) and 84.3% reported an educational level of high school degree. Major flooding episodes have affected the area in recent years (2002, 2009, and 2012), with minor flooding events regularly occurring with heavy rainfalls. Standing water pools continue to serve as mosquito breeding grounds, and persistent moisture exacerbates mold growth in homes—especially as residents have limited use and access to air conditioning.

During 2010 and 2011, the Community Improvement Association joined a coalition of organizations within the English Avenue, Vine City, and Atlanta University Center (AUC) neighborhoods in a visioning process to propose greenspace improvements that would provide capacity relief for the combined sewer system while offering a series of interconnected greenspaces. Green infrastructure proposed in the study area includes parks, greenways, community gardens, rain gardens, and green streets.¹¹ A number of residents participated in the visioning process, however the majority of residents remain unaware of the proposed green infrastructure and its potential benefits. This project aims to educate community residents about the principles and benefits of these green infrastructure plans, to incorporate the residents' concerns and priorities into these plans, and empower the residents to take both personal action and collectively advocate for the implementation of the green infrastructure projects.

How the affected community will benefit from the results of the project: The Community Improvement Association aims to empower the community to engage in the planning to mitigate the flooding and associated environmental health risks and to advocate for the resources and investment needed to implement the plan. While area universities—including Georgia Institute of Technology, Emory University, and Georgia State University—continue to direct resources towards low-income areas in Atlanta for research purposes, residents have expressed their desire to take more immediate action to address their environmental health risks and their community's vitality. In the short term, the Community Improvement Association's proposed activities under this grant will provide community members with knowledge about environmental health and water contamination; tools to advocate for themselves and guide investment in the region; and an understanding of green infrastructure design, planning, and implementation processes. In the long term, green infrastructure will prepare the community for expected increases in rainfall and flooding associated with climate

⁹Atlanta Regional Commission. (2011). *Proctor Creek—Headwaters to Chattahoochee River Watershed Improvement Plan*.

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/data/2010>.

¹¹ Park Pride. (2012). *Proctor Creek North Avenue Watershed Basin: A Green Infrastructure Vision*. Atlanta, GA. http://www.parkpride.org/get-involved/community-programs/park-visioning/content/more-info/2010_pna_overview.pdf.

change, and the collaborative problem-solving effort will continue to advance a new sense of culture and pride in the community.

III. Organization's Historical Connection to the Affected Community

Historical involvement with affected community and how the organization has worked with the affected community's residents and/or organizations to increase the community's capacity to address local environmental, public health issues, and community climate resiliency: The Community Improvement Association is a grassroots organization serving the Proctor Creek watershed near downtown Atlanta, specifically targeting the English Avenue and Vine City neighborhoods. Founder, resident, and CEO Tony Torrence is committed to improving his community by addressing the flooding and associated environmental health risks. Since 1999, the organization has helped engage its disadvantaged community in civic activities. In 2001, Community Improvement Association identified over 3,000 vacant and abandoned structures city-wide and helped direct development funds towards housing rehabilitation in the English Avenue and Vine City neighborhoods. In 2008, the organization worked with Proctor Creek watershed partners to draft a water quality improvement plan for the Upper Chattahoochee River/Proctor Creek Sewer Basin. In the same year, the Community Improvement Association assisted in the development of disaster preparedness workshops for flood victims in the Vine City community and registered 27 property owners in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program to receive assistance from Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) or FEMA.

The Community Improvement Association has, in recent years, improved community capacity to specifically address health issues associated with flooding in the region. In 2010, the organization graduated 43 residents with Mold, Asbestos & Lead Remediation and Hazardous Waste Technician Certifications through collaboration with the Clark Atlanta University Environmental Justice Resource Center. The Community Improvement Association also recruited community residents to engage in a yearlong workshop with Atlanta-based non-profit Park Pride to develop the Proctor Creek/North Avenue Vision Study¹² to manage flooding in English Avenue and Vine City, providing local citizens with an opportunity to communicate their priorities and concerns to city planners. This grant would extend those opportunities by enabling more residents to participate in the planning process, actually implement some solutions to previously identified problems, and advocate for the large-scale investment needed to accomplish the green infrastructure vision. Importantly, given the projected impacts of climate change on the Southeastern US - higher amounts of rainfall, heavier downpours, and more storms with dry periods between storms – the previous green infrastructure vision needs to be updated to accommodate these future weather patterns.

How the organization maintains and sustains an ongoing relationship with the affected community's residents and/or organizations: The Community Improvement Association is a grassroots “on the ground organization,” regularly participating in river clean-ups and tire clean-ups and collecting water samples. CEO Tony Torrence is an English Avenue resident, regularly attending neighborhood association meetings, neighborhood planning meetings, and most meetings with a Proctor Creek focus. The Proctor Creek watershed spans 28.6 square miles and includes over 25 neighborhoods. Numerous individuals, organizations, government agencies, and educational institutions are actively working within the Proctor Creek Watershed to improve the environmental quality of the creek and the quality of life of residents. The Community Improvement Association collaborates and works with most of these organizations, ensuring that the English Avenue and Vine City neighborhood concerns are represented. Notably, the Community Improvement Association has strong relationships

¹² Park Pride. (2012).

with the City of Atlanta's Mayor's office, many of the federal Urban Waters Partners, and the local universities.

How the residents of the affected community are part of the decision-making process: The Community Improvement Association is founded by and comprised of residents of the affected community, so within our organization, all decisions are made by residents. To provide a forum for watershed residents to engage with the multiple organizations working in the Proctor Creek watershed, CIA and partner organizations founded the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council, which is a grassroots group of stakeholders who live and work in the watershed. Yet, the residents of the English Avenue and Vine City need more knowledge and skills to become empowered to join the decision-making process with the many organizations working in the watershed. The currently proposed project is specifically designed to meet this essential need – to give voice to the affected community.

IV. Project Description

The local environmental, public health and community climate resiliency results the project projects seeks to achieve: The overall goal of this program is to develop, implement, and evaluate an environmental awareness and action program both to educate community residents, students, and institutional change agents about the principles and benefits of green infrastructure and to engage these groups in effective strategies to achieve environmental justice through the implementation of green infrastructure projects. This new learning/knowledge will:

- increase the knowledge of all community members about the causes of local flooding and the critical role of green infrastructure solutions in resolving them;
- build community capacity to address and understand the risks associated with flooding and long-term climate change;
- help residents advocate for stormwater solutions that enable the community to adapt to increased rainfall projections *as well as* predictions of increased dry periods in the Southeastern United States;
- increase the awareness of upstream community members about the impacts of their activities on downstream communities;
- increase the engagement and empowerment of all community members enabling them to pursue their own collective interest with regulatory agencies, institutional decision-makers, and city officials;
- increase the frequency of actions by downstream community members that reduce their existing health risks and solve their environmental problems;
- increase the interaction and collaboration between upstream and downstream community members and enhance their ability to work together.

How the project will achieve these results and increase the community's capacity to address local environmental, public health and community climate resiliency issues:

1) Conduct a series of Community Action Circles as a venue for community environmental awareness and action. We plan to conduct 10 small group forums of 15-20 people where downstream affected community members can learn and strategize with each other. (Each community resident participant will receive a monetary incentive based on attendance at Action Circle. This model is based upon other projects and has shown success in acknowledging and sustaining participation of community members.) Students and faculty from the upstream AUC area will be encouraged to work with downstream residents. A two-hour format with one hour devoted to information sharing followed by one hour of discussion and action learning is envisioned. To achieve

the proposed outcomes outlined above, the Community Improvement Association will partner with local organizations in accordance with the EPA's Collaborative Problem Solving Model. The elements of this model will be integrated in the following program activities. See appendix for the schema of incorporation. The Community Improvement Association recently participated in an EPA-led training session on the Collaborative Problem Solving Model.

Residents of English Avenue and Vine City have recognized that this undertaking is an emotional one; community members continue to express anger over the long history of environmental health problems in the region and the slow response to those issues. The Community Improvement Association plans to enlist a trained facilitator to assist residents in working through these tensions. During the first two months of the grant period, the Community Improvement Association will develop a curriculum and agenda with the facilitator, preparing necessary content, handouts, and presentations. The Community Improvement Association and its partners, including Clark Atlanta University students, will create radio and print public service announcements during this same time period to encourage community members in the Proctor Creek headwaters to attend and engage in the Community Action Circles. Action Circle sessions, to be led by this facilitator, will include:

- A discussion of the major findings of the PNA Green Infrastructure Study.
- A guided tour of English Avenue and Vine City neighborhoods, during which community members will identify sites discussed in the PNA Green Infrastructure Study.
- A photovoice project. Community members will photograph specific locations within their neighborhoods with sewage and stormwater management issues and create virtual or mounted poster presentations envisioning green infrastructure solutions in those areas. We anticipate three Action Circle sessions will be devoted to this activity where residents will first receive instruction on the proposed activity, then create their presentations during a joint work sessions and then share their presentations with one another, AUC students/faculty, and members of the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council.
- Work sessions to engage in the design and construction of two small scale green infrastructure projects—using rain barrels provided by the Upper Chattahoochee River Keeper—at neighborhood locations. AUCC students will have the opportunity to work alongside community residents. Supplemental funding for this effort will be provided by the Conservation Fund.
- “Strategies for Action” workshops that will share successful strategies for community organizing and advocacy for green infrastructure projects and organize the community to make equitable solutions come to fruition. We anticipate that three Action Circle sessions will be devoted to these organizing topics that will share strategies used in other cities to implement green infrastructure projects, develop a plan for a PNA-specific advocacy effort, and identify options for next steps that will continue the work at the conclusion of the grant funding period.

We also plan to engage in systematic community outreach to insure participation from the affected community through:

- Door to door canvassing and distributing flyers throughout the neighborhoods,
- Creating press releases for and holding interviews with community newspapers,
- Developing radio and TV programming based on the public lecture. These will be conducted through partnerships with University (broadcast) communications majors,
- Preparing and broadcasting local Public Service Announcements,
- Sharing materials developed as part of this program with community, AUC, and statewide green groups.

2) Include Action Circle participants in AUC college course sessions focused on Proctor Creek.

Eco-Action, our mentoring partner, will develop and teach modules on green infrastructure and environmental justice with the specific intent to develop a Proctor Creek Green Infrastructure/Environmental Justice Case study. These will be suitable for presentation in both college level courses such as Environmental Engineering, Introduction to Engineering Design, Public Policy, and Public Health courses as well as at college level sustainability groups or clubs. Eco-Action will attend the first two Action Circle sessions and the photovoice presentations in order to better integrate the community resident concerns into the modules.

Community leaders and interested Community Action Circle participants will be invited to participate in AUC classes on Proctor Creek issues and will share what they have learned from these lectures with other Community Action Circle attendees.

As part of this activity, we also plan to identify "green" institutional groups on campus such as Clark Atlanta University's Sustainability Council and Georgia Youth Environmental Solutions where these materials can be presented. We will identify students to participate in the Community Action Circles and the Visioning for Action special projects (described below) through these groups as well.

3) Align the community Action Circles with the "Visioning for Action" service learning program that will engage students in the upstream watershed subareas in the development of new green infrastructure solutions. Faculty will work with students to develop "on the ground" solutions to these local infrastructure problems at selected local locations. Specific activities will include:

- Mapping "hidden streams" (Proctor Creek streams that have been contained within combined sewer piping) on the AUC campuses.
- Utilization of community-generated photographs and other community feedback as background materials.
- Meeting with the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council to obtain additional community-based guidance.

Using this information, students will then create conceptual-level visual presentations of appropriate green infrastructure options. Students will present these conceptual plans to Community Action Circle participants, the AUC community, invited guests from local jurisdictions, state and federal regulatory agencies, and the many other organizations working in Proctor Creek. The students' activities will be supported with professional assistance in engineering, land use, and presentation methods.

4) Update the PNA Green Infrastructure Vision to include community perspectives learned from the Action Circles, increase the climate resiliency of the proposed master plan, and prioritize the implementation timeline on community needs. The 2010 PNA vision proposes green infrastructure improvements that will mitigate the frequent flooding in the English Avenue and Vine City neighborhoods. The Action Circles will allow community residents to understand this vision and incorporate their priorities into the vision. This updated plan will be used to represent the community's voice to potential investors, developers, and government entities. The Community Improvement Association will carefully integrate the community's vision into the master plan. The updated plan will be presented at a community forum inviting English Avenue/Vine City residents, the AUC community, the multiple organizations active in Proctor Creek, and representatives and decision-makers from local and state government. This 3-hour forum will include a presentation of the updated vision, small group discussions led by Action Circle community participants, and a structured feedback session. Feedback will be incorporated into a final version of the green infrastructure vision.

Evaluation Plan: Evaluation will be conducted to assess processes and outcomes related to our four objectives. Findings of the evaluation will be summarized and shared with all partners and stakeholders for internal process review and continuous improvement.

The Milestone and Timeline Chart (see Appendix) provides details of the evaluation plan by listing activities of each specific aim and corresponding outcome evaluation tools. For each indicator, data collection methods are listed, as are the months in which the data will be collected. Evaluation of process indicators will be ongoing throughout the grant period. Data collection methods for process indicators include but are not limited to: documentation of materials; documentation of communications; meeting and Community Action Circle records including agendas, minutes, and attendance; number of green infrastructure projects conducted; outreach tracking log including number reached, and list and number of materials distributed.

Evaluation tracking tools will be developed by students at the Emory Rollins School of Public Health as part of a masters level Behavioral Sciences and Health Education Evaluation course. The Community Improvement Association will continue to partner with students and a faculty mentor to adapt evaluation tools and analyze evaluation data.

How the project is related to Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act: This project will promote management strategies to reduce and eliminate stormwater contamination and flooding in the Proctor Creek headwaters—and provide citizens in this vulnerable area of Atlanta with the tools and knowledge to continue advocating for and implementing these solutions.

The role of your partner, nature of the organization(s), resources they bring to the partnership, commitments made, and specific activities partner's will be responsible for: As stated previously, the Community Improvement Association has well-established relationships with the many organizations working in the Proctor Creek watershed. These organizations will be invited to the Action Circle photovoice presentation, the AUC student presentations, and the final forum. Eco-Action will be a primary supporting partner in this project, as the proposed Action Circles are aligned with its educational initiatives with the AUC. Eco-Action will also serve as a mentor in grant management. Eco-Action is a state-wide non-profit organization that helps communities organize to address environmental health challenges, and to strengthen and facilitate participation of communities in preventing and resolving such challenges. ECO-Action has mentored the Community Improvement Association for the last 6 years. The Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, via the HERCULES Environmental Health Research Center, has agreed to partner with the Community Improvement Association to help develop the evaluation tracking tools for this project. The Community Improvement Association is a founding member of the HERCULES Stakeholder Advisory Board and has previously partnered with another service learning course at the school with great success. HERCULES is committed to learning the environmental health concerns of the greater Atlanta community, facilitating community-academic collaborations, and supporting the community in its capacity to address its environmental health concerns. HERCULES provided assistance in the development of this grant proposal and will provide continued technical assistance as needed and within resource constraints.

How the applicant plans to maintain and sustain the partnerships: The Community Improvement Association will maintain its established relationships by continuing its supporting role in the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council and regular attendance at meetings focused on improving the Proctor Creek Watershed. In addition, the HERCULES Stakeholder Advisory Board meets quarterly, and several board members represent organizations active in the watershed. These regular face-to-face interactions provide the platform for continued collaborations. Eco-Action will continue to serve in a

mentoring role – our organizations will meet at least bi-monthly to review progress and address grant management needs.

V. Organizational Capacity and Programmatic Capability

The organizational and administrative systems (e.g., accounting programs) the organization has in place that will be used to appropriately manage, expend, and account for Federal funds: The Community Improvement Association currently tracks expenses on a checkbook ledger. Expenditures are allocated to budget line items as they are paid from the account. At the end of each budget period, total costs are entered in each line item for each major budget category.

How the applicant has successfully managed these projects in the past: The Community Improvement Association has not received a federal grant before. However, the Community Improvement Association is currently successfully completing a one-year project funded by the Emory University HERCULES Environmental Research Center. In this collaborative effort with the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, we are identifying and documenting adverse environmental and public health hazards of concern through photovoice and participatory mapping. For this project, the Community Improvement Association submitted a budget with the grant proposal and submits invoices listing incurred and planned expenditures.

How the applicant plans to effectively manage and successfully complete this proposed project: The Community Improvement Association will transition its accounting system to Quickbooks accounting software with guidance from our mentoring partner, Eco-Action. An accountant will review and prepare our financial reporting. The project management will primarily be milestone-based, following the activities and timeline specified in the project milestone chart (see Appendix). Project planning has been initiated during the proposal development and will continue for the next few months as we work with the Emory students to develop evaluation tracking tools for the project. Upon receipt of the award, we will finalize the curriculum for the community Action Circles and create and implement outreach materials. Following this three months intensive planning period, the execution phase of the project and associated evaluation will be conducted. During this time, we will track activities, their results, and project timeline and determine if the project is on track or if any changes need to be made. The final two months of the project period will be used to integrate the community perspectives into a master vision for the neighborhood, present this vision to the stakeholders, and then finalize the report based on their input.

Organizational experience (or the ability to obtain such experience) to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project: The Community Improvement Association's organizational capacity has increased through its partnerships with multiple non-profit organizations as well as academic partners that provide technical assistance and student support. The Community Improvement Association has taken a lead role in founding the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council (2014), and in this role, plans events, conducts outreach and recruitment, organizes volunteers, and leads committee activities. Similarly, the Community Improvement Association is currently successfully completing a one-year project, which entailed organizing training events, volunteer activities, and will include a photo exhibit and community dialogue event. The Community Improvement Association will continue to receive mentorship and technical assistance from Eco-Action and Emory University HERCULES Environmental Health Research Center throughout this project.

If the applicant has been a recipient of an EPA and/or other Federal grant/cooperative agreement in the last five years, please indicate past performance in meeting reporting requirements: **Not applicable.**

VI. Qualifications of the Principal Investigator or Project Manager

The qualifications of the PM as they relate to the project: Tony Torrence, CEO of the Community Improvement Association, will serve as the PM. Mr. Torrence worked for Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management for over 10 years before dedicated himself full-time to his community. Mr. Torrence has been involved in several green infrastructure projects, including the Boone Blvd/Green Street Project led by the City of Atlanta and the related Health Impact Assessment (EPA), Lindsay Street Park Green Infrastructure Demonstration Projects (Conservation Fund), and assisted Eco-Action in green infrastructure curriculum development for AUC students. He participated in developing the training for the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council's "Watershed Academy."

How the PM has ties to the community and/or organization: Mr. Torrence has lived and worked in the community for 20 years. His community work has been recognized by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Georgia House of Representatives. It is notable that since most of the organizations working in the Proctor Creek Watershed are not located in this community, Mr. Torrence is the go-to community leader for most of these organizations.

Past Activities that the PM has worked on with the community: Mr. Torrence has worked on numerous projects in the community. A few brief highlights are included here: organized Earth Day Weekends, coordinated with workshops for flood victims, and has served as the co-chair of English Ave and Vine City's Public Safety Committee and the Environmental Committee, the Neighborhood Deputy for the City of Atlanta's Bureau of Code Enforcement, a board member for Clark Atlanta University's Green Jobs Board, and a board member for the Emory HERCULES Stakeholder Advisory Board.

VII. Past Performance in Reporting on Outputs and Outcomes

A list of any Federal or non-Federal grants or cooperative agreements (not Federal contracts) of similar size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project that you worked on within the past three (3) years: Not applicable.

A description of how you have documented and/or reported on progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under prior and/or current assistance agreements: We have not had any prior or current agreements, however, over the past two years, in our partnership with ECO-Action and West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, we have been required to submit program reports in term of outputs and outcomes. In addition, for the current grant funded by Emory HERCULES, quarterly reports and a final report including project progress/activities, outcomes/successes, and lessons learned have been required.

If you did not make any progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes, describe whether you have documentation and/or reports satisfactorily explaining why: Not applicable.

VIII. Quality Assurance Project Plan Information Not applicable.